

1 labor unrest, and wage pressure, as if we are by  
2 definition nothing but a burden on business.

3 There are plenty of regular programs about  
4 the 10 percent of the population who own 90 percent of  
5 all stocks. Why can't we have shows about the issues  
6 facing the 95 percent of the population that works for  
7 a living?

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. QUICK: Finally, finally, it's often  
10 said of our media that yes, it's tawdry,  
11 sensationalistic, trivial, disgusting. But, alas,  
12 it's that way because that's what the people want.

13 But wait a minute. When I am driving on  
14 the highway and I can't keep myself from looking at a  
15 gruesome crash scene with blood and guts and wreckage,  
16 does that mean I really wanted to see it?

17 And that's what our media too often does.  
18 It shocks us. It insults us. It mocks us. It  
19 employs the best and brightest that psychology and  
20 science have to offer to exploit our deepest fears,  
21 prey on our vulnerabilities, and sooth our  
22 manufactured cravings.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MR. QUICK: Why is that? Because in a  
3 system in which the profit motive trumps the public  
4 service motive, the name of the game for broadcasters  
5 is, whatever you do, make sure the viewer doesn't  
6 change the channel.

7 MS. DAVIS: And your time is up. Thank  
8 you.

9 (Applause.)

10 Microphone two.

11 MR. JOHNSTON: Good evening. My name is  
12 Paul Johnston. I am here to speak for the Monterey  
13 Bay Central Labor Council, a union of about 60 unions  
14 here in the communities on California's Central Coast,  
15 to express our concerns about corporate bias in the  
16 media and how it affects localism and, I should also  
17 say, I suppose, to express our unqualified support for  
18 every recommendation that has been put before you by  
19 the Media Alliance and also, to my surprise, by KSCO  
20 as well.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. JOHNSTON: Let me just say that, at

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1 least for the moment, thanks to the federal court, the  
2 majority's agenda here at the FCC has been sidelined.

3 Excuse me. Now I think, even here in  
4 Monterey, in the most affluent, least accessible,  
5 isolated corner of our county and perhaps one of the  
6 most isolated places you could have picked to hold  
7 your only hearing --

8 (Laughter.)

9 MR. JOHNSTON: -- even here in Monterey,  
10 it seems that the movement from media to democracy is  
11 ready to turn a corner. And we're here to say, I  
12 believe, that slowing down this anti-localism agenda  
13 is not enough. Now we want to move forward.

14 And I'll just tell you a story to tell you  
15 why we in the labor movement feel this way. Recently  
16 another little town nearby here, Gilroy, the city  
17 council, indeed the whole community, was arguing over  
18 Wal-Mart's proposal for a super store.

19 And then our local Hearst TV outlet ran an  
20 editorial campaign in favor of Wal-Mart, ridiculing  
21 and really undermining and not accurately stating the  
22 arguments of its critics, which helped to push the

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1 city council into giving Wal-Mart the go-ahead.

2 So in hearing complaints and calls and so  
3 on, we at the Central Labor Council called and wrote  
4 and faxed and e-mailed the station, asking to record  
5 a rebuttal.

6 Eventually, we did get the general manager  
7 of the station on the phone and explaining that  
8 according to their methodology for measuring community  
9 controversy, the issue was not significant enough to  
10 merit a rebuttal. And so there was none. (Audience  
11 shouting.)

12 MS. DAVIS: I'm sorry. Your time is up.

13 MR. JOHNSTON: Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. DAVIS: Microphone one.

16 MS. LOPEZ: Good evening. My name is  
17 Eliva Lopez. I live in Monterey, California. And I  
18 am with Democracy for America, Democrats in Monterey  
19 County.

20 As a Hispanic, a young Hispanic, living in  
21 this area, I want to call to your attention the  
22 domination that Clear Channel has on the Hispanic

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1 market in Monterey.

2 I agree with everything Delia and Blanca  
3 talked about tonight. Clear Channel through one of  
4 their affiliates, Entravision, dominates the Hispanic  
5 market here in Monterey. That is 41 percent of the  
6 population of Monterey County that is only served by  
7 one station, and the one that Delia manages.

8 They have seven radio stations, and they  
9 also have a television station. And one of these  
10 radio stations, 107.1, caters to a demographic of  
11 people my age. They claim to be the number one in the  
12 demographic of people who are 12 and over. This is  
13 the only radio station that tries to play pop music or  
14 rock. The other ones just play different kinds of  
15 Mexican music. They are the only station that caters  
16 to this demographic.

17 I think this is wrong. Not only do they  
18 get to choose and limit the options of music that  
19 young people our age can listen to but also what kind  
20 of products we will consume. And they also limit the  
21 access that we have to news.

22 They have zero news content in their

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1 programs, they have one sorry attempt in the morning  
2 at informing and entertaining. And all they do is  
3 promote negative stereotypes of Hispanics. We can do  
4 better than this.

5 So I will cede the rest of my time to  
6 Mark. Thank you for attention.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. DAVIS: Mark, you have 23 seconds,  
9 whoever Mark is.

10 MS. LOPEZ: I'm sorry. I wanted my friend  
11 Mark to have more time to present his point. That's  
12 why I'm giving away my time.

13 MS. DAVIS: No. You cannot do that. You  
14 have two minutes. You had 23 seconds when you  
15 finished.

16 MS. LOPEZ: Well, you know what? Let me  
17 just point out this radio station, I think, as one of  
18 the only stations that caters to people my age, you  
19 would never have known that we had a primary election  
20 back in March. I think this is wrong. We need more  
21 coverage.

22 (Applause.)

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1 MS. DAVIS: Thank you for making your  
2 points. Microphone two.

3 UNIDENTIFIED OPEN MIC PARTICIPANT: I will  
4 address the audience because out of five  
5 commissioners, two are AWOL and two seem to agree, at  
6 least in part, with our grievances.

7 We are not fooled by this facade of a  
8 democratic process. We are surrounded by police. We  
9 are relegated to police with tazers, for that matter.

10 We are relegated to the end of the night,  
11 after corporate media has gone. They are gone. They  
12 have left. Independent media remains.

13 We are forced to jump through ticketing  
14 hoops, lines, wait, and then patiently sit and wait  
15 for our turn in line to beg and plead for changes  
16 before people who do not have the power or desire to  
17 grant our wishes. This is pseudo accountability.

18 So go back to D.C. and make your rules.  
19 We will continue to break them.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. DAVIS: Microphone one.

22 MR. POINTER: I am Mark Pointer from

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1 Monterey, father of three preteen children. I teach  
2 elementary school children.

3 Like three million other Colombians, I  
4 live in exile from the country where I was reared.  
5 The U.S. and Colombian governments are waging war  
6 there.

7 My children ask me, "Poppy, when can we go  
8 to your farm?" I try to explain that the guerrillas  
9 mined it with U.S.-made explosives and that American  
10 paramilitaries contracted by Dyncorp here in Monterey  
11 work with the Army and the paramilitaries to keep out  
12 human rights advocates, like me.

13 Like thousands of South Americans in the  
14 greater Salinas-Monterey Bay area, I never see my  
15 nation and cultures positively represented on TV or  
16 radio.

17 Half of my Colombian friends tell me that  
18 they hide the fact that they are Colombians due to the  
19 villainous caricature that the media portray of our 47  
20 million people, including Telemundo, sir.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. POINTER: From my own research, here

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1 is a local story. Part of the 3.5 billion tax dollars  
2 vested on plant Colombia is spent in Monterey on  
3 mercenary contractors. Local media neglects to cover  
4 this story while it is debated in Congress this week.

5 Maybe they don't want to uncover their  
6 advertisers' claws to the public. Instead, Fox and  
7 KION propaganda is about the deficiencies of public  
8 education, which is a partisan agenda, averting  
9 investigation of the tax and property politics that  
10 created and exacerbate the economics that has  
11 shattered the future of my students.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. POINTER: These Machiavellian  
14 corporations advocate school and teacher  
15 accountability. It's time for media accountability.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. POINTER: I am compelled to teach  
18 students to read between the lines.

19 MS. DAVIS: Mark, your time is up.

20 MR. POINTER: Would someone tell us how  
21 many kids of mine are now in Iraq before they get  
22 killed? Create a media report card to be filled out

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1 by a minimum number of market --

2 MS. DAVIS: Mark. We're moving on to  
3 microphone two, Mark. Mark, if you want us to  
4 sympathize with your point of view, then let us  
5 hear others, please. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. DAVIS: Microphone two, please.

8 DILLON: Hello. My name is Dillon. I  
9 grew up in the Napa Valley. I'm third generation  
10 Californian.

11 And I would first like to thank all of the  
12 very educated and well-qualified people that came to  
13 this meeting with studies and facts that show what I  
14 know already.

15 (Laughter.)

16 DILLON: I am the son of a Vietnam  
17 veteran. And I inherited his disillusionment. I just  
18 think you should know that at age 15 or 16, I walked  
19 away from all local mass media.

20 (Applause.)

21 DILLON: It is only through the internet  
22 and through alternative print that I get what I

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1 consider useable information. And this leads to the  
2 inability, I believe, for the population to elect  
3 anyone who would choose the right panel for this  
4 commission.

5 My friends don't even know what the  
6 Federal Communications Commission is. Nobody . . . I  
7 told people I was coming to this meeting, some  
8 acquaintances of mine. They were like, "What's that?"  
9 So it's such a complete failure. I look at all of  
10 this.

11 If it wasn't for my girlfriend, who is in  
12 a nonprofit organization, I would have no idea this  
13 event happened. And I just see this as a ship of  
14 fools, and I am really sorry that it is really a shame  
15 that this nation holds life and death decisions for so  
16 many people in the world and it is in such a pitiful  
17 state.

18 Save us, Mr. Copps. You are our only  
19 hope.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

22 Microphone one.

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1 MR. CARBONARO: Thank you.

2 My name is Mark Carbonaro. I am a local  
3 broadcaster. I will get the biggest boo of the night  
4 because I work for Clear Channel.

5 (Whereupon, there was a chorus of  
6 "boos.")

7 MR. CARBONARO: Go ahead.

8 MS. DAVIS: Didn't make it. . .

9 MR. CARBONARO: But I want to say that our  
10 stations do serve this community. And let me have my  
11 floor. You have had your floor. Let me have my  
12 floor. I have got less than two minutes. Thank you  
13 very much.

14 Public hearings like this our news talk  
15 station has broadcast over the last three years on a  
16 regular basis, tax forums, debates with the sheriff's  
17 office, the mayor's races, and so forth. Our stations  
18 have worked to serve this community.

19 One other thing I want to mention to this  
20 Commission -- and it doesn't have to do with that  
21 service, but it has to do with enough radio voices in  
22 the community -- and this is to the three

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1 commissioners that are on the dais. Do not approve  
2 IBOC for AM broadcasting.

3 It is typically flawed. It will lead to  
4 the turning off of a great number of AM radio stations  
5 in this country. The technology has not been proven.  
6 You are not allowing it to be used at night because of  
7 the interference that it causes on the AM band.

8 And if IBOC is approved as pending, the  
9 only AM radio stations left on the air will be  
10 50,000-watt flamethrowers in big markets. Small AM  
11 stations, like Mr. Zwerling's KSCO in Santa Cruz, our  
12 stations here in King City, will leave the air because  
13 the signals as they are, are not strong enough to  
14 compete against the interference caused by this  
15 proposed service, which would move AM from an analog  
16 band into a digital band.

17 I know this is way out there for people.  
18 There's only one guy in the audience who is a  
19 broadcast engineer who understands any of this, but  
20 everything -- when you're talking about localism, if  
21 we lose more radio stations, then you're not going to  
22 have localism. Thank you.

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1 MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 The speaker at microphone two.

4 MR. COUSINS: My name is Michael Cousins.

5 I am a communications attorney in Oakland. I thank  
6 the commissioners for having this meeting. I  
7 specifically want to compliment Commissioner Abernathy  
8 for being gracious and gutsy coming out here and  
9 chairing this thing.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. COUSINS: Now, the commissioners as a  
12 whole, on the other hand, when they get together, they  
13 can do some terrible things.

14 (Laughter.)

15 MR. COUSINS: Specifically, I want to  
16 mention that since 1987, there's been no generalized  
17 opportunity to file for a full-service TV station. A  
18 freeze was put on at that time. That's very  
19 important: nearly a whole generation with no  
20 opportunities for new entry to full-service  
21 television.

22 More recently, we've seen the Commission

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1 adopt at the suggestion of industry a transition plan  
2 for radio to digital radio, that involves no new entry  
3 at all. Only incumbent radio operators are going to  
4 be able to make the transition to digital. And then  
5 much, much later perhaps, if ever, new entry will be  
6 permitted.

7 These policies are wrong. I'm concerned  
8 that television broadcasting itself may be dying  
9 because it doesn't have fresh voices, new entry, more  
10 stations. It's down to, what, 20 percent of the  
11 audience now is receiving television directly over the  
12 air? And I think the industry may be in trouble.

13 The fate of radio could be even worse.  
14 Radio if it doesn't expand and get new voices and  
15 diverse voices could be hammered by new technologies  
16 until we don't have an effective on-the-ground  
17 broadcast radio service anymore.

18 So these are things to think about and to  
19 take back to Washington that we need to expand these  
20 services. We need to create new entry. Diversity is  
21 going to come from new entry and not from pushing  
22 around the folks that are already there because they

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1 have shown that they push back very effectively or  
2 they will outfox you every time.

3 (Laughter.)

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

6 Microphone one.

7 MR. GUSTASON: Good evening. My name is  
8 Howard Gustason. I live in the City of Marina.

9 You know, I am not really worried about  
10 consolidation of the media as long as you are there to  
11 regulate them, honestly. In the 1980s, I was  
12 concerned about CNN and Headline News taking over  
13 because we already had the same thing with CBS, NBC,  
14 and ABC. I really was concerned about the  
15 homogenization of the news then.

16 It's hard to believe news from any source  
17 if you disagree with one's fundamental philosophies,  
18 political philosophies. And independent news is just  
19 as untrustworthy easily.

20 News was beginning to come around with the  
21 advent of independent broadcasters, believe it or not,  
22 like Rush Limbaugh, in 1989 and 1990, which I believe

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1 helped to create the need for Fox News. My news of  
2 America, fair and balanced, finally came along with  
3 Rupert Murdoch, who isn't even an American, finally.

4 And if you really want control of what you  
5 watch, then why don't you come up with a great a la  
6 carte menu system from the cable companies so we can  
7 pick and choose what we want?

8 If I only want three TV stations, then  
9 that's all I want. And give me a decent rate, you  
10 know, really. And I don't want to pay tax dollars for  
11 public television, to listen to somebody's political  
12 diatribe that I don't agree with. I don't want to  
13 hear them at all.

14 Another thing, you need to stop the  
15 channel blocking. The channel blocking, isn't that  
16 another way for us if we don't like what is being  
17 shown at prime time to just move over and watch a  
18 channel on an independent station who airs the same TV  
19 programs?

20 KSBW is guilty of it. Fox News or the Fox  
21 local channel is very guilty of it. I mean, they are  
22 ornery about blocking TV channels.

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1 Reruns. How could it hurt? If they can't  
2 make it through their advertising dollar by blocking  
3 channels, I mean, that is the most ridiculous thing  
4 there is.

5 Anyway, thank you very much.

6 MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 Microphone two.

9 MS. WEAKS: Hello. My name is India  
10 Weeks. I want to thank you for coming to my hometown  
11 of Monterey. I would like to give you an example of  
12 some of the local Clear Channel content that can be  
13 heard on local KSJO here in Monterey. This is July  
14 16th, 2002, The Mikey Show.

15 (Whereupon, an audio tape was played.)

16 MS. WEAKS: That's four-year-old Katie.  
17 She was a regular feature on The Mikey Show. She  
18 called in often and told dirty jokes, usually the  
19 words too dirty to bleep.

20 That was "What are the two most important  
21 holes on a woman's body?

22 "Her nostrils so she can breathe while she

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1 is giving you a blow job."

2 Mikey no longer featured Katie as a caller  
3 after the Dallas Police Department investigated. And  
4 you might ask, "Why Dallas?" Well, it turns out that  
5 though it was being heard locally here in Monterey,  
6 the show is produced in Dallas and being  
7 voice-streamed here into our little community.

8 The Sexual Exploitation Unit in Dallas,  
9 Texas looked into the issue, contacted the station.  
10 The station said it was an adult woman who was an  
11 actress but refused to cooperate with any further  
12 investigation or provide any proof.

13 This is Mikey a week later, when he made  
14 international headlines when he gave tips to  
15 kidnappers on how best to dispose of children's  
16 bodies, "He recommends nylon rope because Jessica  
17 Pratt was able to chew through the duct tape. He  
18 recommends lye to dissolve the body and tarps."

19 I would also like to conclude by playing  
20 for you his statutory rape song, which has been heard  
21 on dozens of Clear channel stations.

22 MS. DAVIS: I hope it's quick.

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1 (Whereupon, an audio tape was played.)

2 MS. WEAKS: There's an entire song that  
3 goes after that. For those of you who missed the  
4 beginning because of the cheering and all of that, he  
5 said, "Look at that little girl over there. Is she 9  
6 or is she 12? Ain't got no pubic hair. I like them  
7 bald and bare."

8 The song goes on to talk about the  
9 international sex trade of children, "I'm such a bad  
10 boy. I like little girls from Hanoi," "I'm into  
11 videotape. I like statutory rape."

12 On June 9th, the FCC voted --

13 MS. DAVIS: I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Thank  
14 you.

15 MS. WEAKS: I was censored on June 9th,  
16 when they dismissed my complaint with no  
17 investigation.

18 MS. DAVIS: Do you want to apologize to  
19 the people who are in line and hoping to be heard?

20 UNIDENTIFIED OPEN MIC PARTICIPANT: I  
21 would actually love to hear more, but --

22 MS. DAVIS: Can we --

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1 COMMISSIONER ABERNATHY: Let me go ahead  
2 and respond. This was not voted on by the commission.  
3 This was done at the bureau.

4 MS. DAVIS: Do you want to hear her answer  
5 or not? Would you like to hear her answer?

6 UNIDENTIFIED OPEN MIC PARTICIPANT: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER ABERNATHY: Everything I  
8 heard is completely inappropriate, rises to the level  
9 of indecency. And we have got to go after them. This  
10 is the first I know about it. Yes.

11 MS. DAVIS: Thank you very much.

12 Please?

13 MR. SHILLER: Good evening. My name is  
14 Zack Shiller. I'm a graduate student in sociology at  
15 the University of California at Davis. For the last  
16 about two years, I have been studying low-power FM,  
17 specifically Radio Bird Street, KRBS-LP in Oraville,  
18 California.

19 In recent years, political scientists and  
20 sociologists as well as national editorialists have  
21 lamented the decline in civic participation and  
22 engagement in our society. Theories explaining this

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1 trend center on the pervasive cynicism present  
2 throughout many sectors of society because of people's  
3 voices not being heard or their votes not counting.

4 In my two years researching at KRBS and in  
5 scores of interviews with folks in LPFMs across the  
6 country, I found quite the opposite. Through their  
7 participation in community-oriented radio stations,  
8 LPFM participants overwhelmingly report a feeling of  
9 connectivity, both to each other and to wider social  
10 forces, that they had never experienced before. This,  
11 in turn, has resulted in an increase in civic  
12 engagement in many communities.

13 The lesson here is that LPFM has actually  
14 renewed civic engagement and participation. Being  
15 connected to one's community should not be limited to  
16 the opportunity for a new LPFM license window to open,  
17 though I should strongly encourage you all to do that.

18 But the larger lesson is that existing for  
19 profit stations with much more extensive reach should  
20 be mandated to open a portion of their daily or weekly  
21 program grid to community-oriented and  
22 community-produced programming as part of their

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1 obligation to serve the public interest.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. SHILLER: Whether it is showcasing  
4 local artistic talent or opening a space for debate on  
5 important local issues, creating community time on  
6 existing full-powered stations and enforcing this  
7 public interest obligation should be a central focus  
8 of this task force.

9 Airing canned public service announcements  
10 at 3:00 A.M. is one thing, but inspiring entire  
11 communities to become more involved, more connected,  
12 and more aware should be a primary goal of meeting  
13 public interest obligations.

14 So yes, let's open filing windows for more  
15 LPFMs in urban areas, but let's also open existing  
16 stations' airwaves to local community voices on a  
17 regular basis. And let's let that count as serving  
18 the public interest, which supposedly broadcast  
19 licensees are required to do.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

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1 Microphone two.

2 UNIDENTIFIED OPEN MIC PARTICIPANT: Hello.  
3 I'm from Oakland, California. Thank you, Monterey, for  
4 having us. Much respect for Davey D coming down here.

5 I want to speak on two things really  
6 quickly. The first up is personal experience. I  
7 thought this was probably the most important part of  
8 this Commission, for you to hear what is really going  
9 on, not on Clear Channel's Web site.

10 My colleague up there, Eli Taylor, is a  
11 promoter of hip hop events in the Bay area. He chose  
12 to do an urban entertainment convention that was  
13 designed to network local business people. And we  
14 brought in a lot of corporate sponsors, a lot of  
15 different media outlets.

16 Basically what happened is we chose to use  
17 their competitor, 92.7, the new hip hop station, as a  
18 sponsor. And the day before the event, KMEL Clear  
19 Channel station called the artist's label and demanded  
20 that they pull the radio ads off or that they would  
21 stop spinning their record on KMEL. After that  
22 happened, they called again and canceled on us the day

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1 of the event because they had called the label and  
2 said it was too much pressure. So the label canceled  
3 on us, actually.

4 What ended up happening is the artist  
5 performed anyway, came from New York to perform, not  
6 despite the fact that KMEL's vans were circling our  
7 event the night of, telling all of our fans that the  
8 artist was not coming. So they are actively trying to  
9 shut down local business people.

10 Unfortunately, none of that is important.  
11 I want to put everything into context. There is a  
12 flyer floating around the room right now. There's  
13 probably also some agents in the room. There is  
14 probably a lot of different stuff in the room.

15 The election in 2000 was stolen, folks.  
16 The election in 2000 was stolen. And there's no  
17 reason to believe that they're not gearing up for the  
18 same thing, not in a year, in a couple of months.

19 I remember as a student watching films  
20 from Nazi Germany. We have no Nazis in power here.  
21 That is not what I am saying. But we know the role  
22 that media played and what happened in the '40s. We

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